Sri Karinjeshwara temple, Karinja, Bantwal Taluk, Karnataka

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Subdeities daily rituals and poojas, special poojas and rituals festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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AI Overview

Sri Karinjeshwara Temple is a historic hilltop Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, located on the 1000-foot-high Karinja Hill in Kavalamudur village, Bantwal Taluk, Karnataka. Situated around 600 steps up, it offers breathtaking views, featuring separate shrines for Parvati and Ganesha midway and Shiva at the peak.

Key Details About Karinjeshwara Temple:

- **Location:** Situated on Karinja Hill in Kavalamudur village, Bantwal Taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka.
- **Deity & Structure:** The temple is divided into two main parts: the Lord Shiva temple at the top and the Goddess Parvati temple on the way up.
- **Access:** Reached by climbing approximately 355 to 600 steps.
- **Holy Ponds:** The site contains sacred ponds, including the Gadha Teertha at the bottom and the Ungusta Teertha in the middle.
- **Timing:** Generally open from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- **Key Features:**
    - **Monkeys:** The hill is inhabited by many monkeys, which are considered sacred and are fed daily with *Naivedya* (rice) during a ritual known as "Vanara Anna Seve".
    - **Architecture:** Dating back to around 1200 C.E., it is a popular pilgrimage site and hiking destination.
    - **Festivals:** Major celebrations include Maha Shivaratri, Karthika Masa, and Navaratri.
- **How to Reach:** The temple is accessible via road, with the nearest major city being Mangalore, and the closest airport is Mangalore International Airport.

Note: There is no wheelchair-accessible entrance or parking.

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Here is detailed information on Sri Karinjeshwara Temple (also known as Karinjeshwara Temple), a renowned Lord Shiva temple in Karnataka:

Location and Address

The temple is located atop Karinja Hill (about 1000 feet above sea level) in Karinja village, Kavalamudur (or Kavalpadur), Bantwal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka.

Full address: W47H+J6C, Karinjeshwara Rd, Kavalpadur, Karnataka 574265 (near Bantwal).

It is approximately 35-40 km from Mangalore and about 14 km from Bantwal town.

Phone/Contact

Contact numbers mentioned across sources include:

08255-285255
+91-99162-30723

Other older references: 9741637183 or similar.

For the latest, it's best to check the official temple website or call ahead (email sometimes listed as karinjeshwaratemple@gmail.com).

How to Get There

By Road: Well-connected by road. From Mangalore or Bantwal, take buses or taxis to BC Road/Bantwal, then local transport to the base of Karinja Hill.

The path to Parvati's shrine is motorable; from there, climb steps to Lord Shiva's temple.

By Train: Nearest railway station is Bantwal (about 14-15 km) or Mangalore Central (major station, ~35-40 km).

By Air: Mangalore International Airport (IXE) is the nearest (~40 km).

From the base, devotees climb around 550-600 steps to reach the main Shiva temple (a rewarding trek with scenic views).

Small ponds and natural surroundings enhance the journey.

Greatness of the Temple

This ancient temple is a peaceful spiritual haven nestled in nature, offering panoramic views of hills, forests, and surroundings. It is revered as a powerful Shiva shrine (Surya Sadashiva form) and attracts devotees for its sanctity, especially on Shivaratri.

The hill has mythological significance across the four yugas, making it a timeless pilgrimage site.

Legends and History

The temple is believed to be over 1000 years old (some sources say completed around 1200 CE, with roots much earlier).

The hill's name evolved across yugas: Roudra Giri (Krutha Yuga), Bhima Shaila (Dwapara Yuga), Gajendra Giri (Treta Yuga), and Karinja (Kali Yuga).

Legends connect it to the Ramayana and Mahabharata (caves as Pandava hideouts during exile).

It has ancient historical ties, including visits by figures like Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya around 300 BCE.

Architecture of the Temple

Built in traditional South Indian (Dravidian) style, the temple complex spans two levels on the hill:

Lord Shiva's shrine at the summit (top of the cliff).

Goddess Parvati and Lord Ganesha's shrine midway up the hill.

The structure includes small ponds, natural rock formations, and simple yet elegant design, blending with the rocky hilltop environment.

Deities

Presiding deity: Lord Shiva (Sri Karinjeshwara or Surya Sadashiva).
Goddess Parvati (as Parameshwari/Parvathi).
Lord Ganesha (in the midway shrine).

Sub-deities

Main sub-deities include Lord Ganesha in the Parvati shrine area.
Other smaller shrines or deities may be present in the complex.

Daily Rituals and Poojas

Standard Shiva temple rituals: daily abhishekam, archana, naivedya, and aarti. Specific timings are available from the temple (typically early morning to evening).

Special Poojas and Rituals

It is especially vibrant on Maha Shivaratri (four-day festival) with special abhishekams, processions, and the unique Shiva-Parvati sammilan (meeting/union ritual).

Other specials include Rathotsava (chariot procession).

Regarding charges for daily and special poojas/sevas at Sri Karinjeshwara Temple, Karinja:

Entry and darshan at the temple are completely free for all devotees (no darshan fee or VIP entry charges mentioned anywhere).

For specific poojas and sevas (archana, abhisheka, etc.), the temple offers various sevas at nominal rates, primarily at the Goddess Parvati's shrine (midway on the hill).

Here are the details based on available information from reliable temple-related sources:

- Sevas at Sannidhi of Goddess Parvathi (approximate charges, as listed in some temple guides; these may vary slightly over time):
- Nithya Pooja (Daily Pooja): ₹100/-
- Hoovina Pooja (Flower Pooja): ₹60/-
- Shree Sookthabhisheka: ₹60/-
- Panchamrutha Abhisheka: ₹45/-
- Durga Pooja: ₹45/-

These are for standard daily or regular sevas.

Special abhishekas or poojas (especially for Lord Shiva at the top shrine) are also performed, but exact charges for all Shiva-specific sevas aren't uniformly listed online—some sources mention similar low-cost abhisheka options (often ₹50-200 range for common ones like Rudrabhisheka or Panchamrutha).

Special notes:

On festival days like Maha Shivaratri, Rathotsava, or other major occasions, there may be special sevas with slightly higher suggested donations (e.g., some events list ₹500+ for vishesa abhisheka or havan, plus minor courier/handling if booked remotely).

Many sevas are booked in person at the temple counter.

For the most accurate and up-to-date list (as prices can be revised), please contact the temple directly:

Phone: 08255-285255 or +91-99162-30723 (or check their official Facebook page: Sri Karinjeshwara Temple, Bantwall).

They have a basic website at karinjeshwara.templeinfo.in (or similar templeinfo.in portal) where pooja lists may be available.

Devotees typically offer whatever they can afford as kanike/donation in the hundi for temple maintenance and special rituals—it's voluntary beyond the fixed seva charges.

If you're planning to perform any specific pooja (especially on auspicious days), calling ahead is best to confirm timings, availability, and exact amounts.

Festivals

- Maha Shivaratri (major, with grand celebrations, Shiva-Parvati union, and Rathotsava).
- Car festival (Rathotsava).
- Navaratri.
- Deepotsava.
- Sona Samaradhane.
- Aati Amavasya.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation etc.)

Basic facilities are available near the temple/base.

Limited or no large-scale accommodation on-site (focus on day visits or local stays).

Devotees often stay in Bantwal or Mangalore.

Parking and basic amenities at the base; the climb is the main effort.

Donation Info and Bank Account

Donations are accepted for temple maintenance, rituals, etc. Specific bank details aren't publicly listed in general sources (common for many temples).

Contact the temple directly via phone for Hundi donations, specific schemes, or bank transfer info.

Nearby Temples

- Other Shiva temples in the region.
- Mangalore has Mangaladevi Temple, Kadri Manjunatha Temple, etc. (about 35-40 km).
- Dharmasthala Manjunatha Temple (~40 km away).

Other Tourist Attractions

The temple itself offers stunning natural views, hills, forests, and a serene atmosphere.

Nearby: Bantwal town, scenic routes to Mangalore, and attractions like beaches or other temples in Dakshina Kannada.

Nearby Budget Hotels

Budget options are more in Bantwal or Mangalore (e.g., Hotel Rays Inn, other local lodges).

Places like Birwa Centre or similar guesthouses may be closer.

For stays near Bantwal/Mangalore, check budget hotels like Hotel Ganga Sagar or similar (prices vary; book via apps for current rates).

Any Other Info

The temple is surrounded by nature, with small ponds on the hill. It's especially crowded and festive today on Shivaratri—expect special energy with the divine meeting ritual you mentioned.

Wear comfortable clothes/footwear for the steps. Carry water, especially in warmer weather.

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Ref: Google Gemini

Sri Karinjeshwara Temple is a magnificent ancient shrine located in the Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. Known as the "Bhookailasa" of the region, it is uniquely perched atop a massive rock formation, offering both spiritual solace and a breathtaking view of the Western Ghats.

1. **Location and Connectivity**

* **Address**: Sri Karinjeshwara Temple, Karinjeshwara Road, Kavalpadur Village, Bantwal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka - 574265.

* **Phone**: +91 08255 285255 / **Email**: karinjeshwaratemple@gmail.com

* **How to Get There**:

* **By Road**: It is about 35 km from Mangalore and 14 km from Bantwal. Private buses and autos are available from Bantwal.

* **By Train**: The nearest major station is Mangalore Central/Junction. There is also a smaller station at Bantwal (15 km away).

* **By Air:** Mangalore International Airport (IXE) is approximately 42 km away.

2. **History and Legends**

The temple is said to be over 1,100 years old, with traditions stating it has existed across all four Yugas (eras), known by different names in each:

* Krutha Yuga: Roudra Giri
* Treta Yuga: Gajendra Giri (Visited by Lord Rama and Lakshmana)
* Dvapara Yuga: Bheema Shaila (Associated with the Pandavas)
* Kali Yuga: Karinja

The Monkey Feast (Karinja Dadda): A unique **legend** says Lord Rama offered rice to Lord Shiva here and then gave the remains to the monkeys.

To this day, after the afternoon Mahapooja, the temple priest offers "Naivedyam" (cooked rice) to a leader of the monkeys (nicknamed 'Karinja Dadda') on a special rock slab.

3. **Architecture and Deities**

The temple complex is divided into two main levels, requiring a climb of about 555 to 600 steps:

* **Mid-level**: Dedicated to Goddess Parvathi and Lord Ganesha.

* **Top-level**: Dedicated to Lord Shiva (Karinjeshwara).

* **Style**: The architecture is a blend of Dravidian, Vaishnav, and Jain influences, primarily built using massive stone blocks.

* **Sacred Ponds (Theerthas):** There are several ponds with mythological origins:

  * **Gadha Theertha**: Shaped like a mace, believed to be created by Bhima.

  * **Angushta Theertha**: Created by the thumb-print of a deity.

  * **Janu Theertha:** Created by a knee-print.

  * **Handi Kere**: Associated with Arjuna's encounter with a wild boar.

4. **Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Festivals**

* **Timings**: * Shiva Temple (Top): 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM.

  * **Parvathi Temple (Middle):** 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM.

* **Special Rituals**: Pradosha Pooja is highly significant here.

* **Major Festivals**: * Maha Shivaratri: A 4-day grand celebration.

* **Deepotsava**: The festival of lights.

* **Sona Samaradhane and Aati Amavasya.**

5. **Facilities and Donations**

* **Facilities**: The temple provides a basic dining hall for devotees. Parking is available at the base.

* **Accommodation**: There are no major guest houses on the hill itself. Most devotees stay in Bantwal or Mangalore.

* **Donations**: Offerings can be made at the temple office.

* **Bank Details** (Verify at office): Traditionally associated with Syndicate Bank (now Canara Bank) Kavalpadur or Vijaya Bank (now Bank of Baroda) Bantwal.

6. **Nearby Attractions and Hotels**

* **Nearby Temples**:

* Shree Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bantwal.
* Sri Umashiva Kshetra, Kalladka.
* Puttur Mahalingeshwara Temple (approx. 25 km).

* Other Attractions: Netravati River Viewpoints, Perla Backwaters, and Navoor Kambala Track.

* **Budget Hotels in Bantwal:**

* Birwa Lodge (Approx. ₹1,500/night)
* Hotel Krishnananda / Krishnananda Lodging
* Hotel Heraa Inn

> **Tip**: Wear comfortable walking shoes for the 600-step climb and be cautious with the monkeys—they are friendly but will quickly snatch any visible food or plastic bags!

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More details on:

1. Daily / special poojas and their charges,
2. Today, (February 15, 2026) it is Shivaratri. So there will be great celebrations there...meeting of Lord Karinjeshwara and Mother Parvati...etc. So let us have the celebrations in detail. Devotees would really enjoy reading this.

It is a truly auspicious day to be discussing Sri Karinjeshwara. **Today, being Maha Shivaratri, the energy at the Karinja hill is electric.** Thousands of devotees are currently making the climb to witness the divine union of Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati.
Here are the specific details you requested regarding the rituals, charges, and today's grand celebrations.

1. **Daily & Special Poojas (Sevas)**

The temple maintains a traditional and affordable list of offerings. While prices are subject to minor changes by the temple board, the following are the standard charges for devotees:

Seva Name	Approx. Charge (INR)	Significance
Nitya Pooja	₹100	General daily offering for well-being.
Rudrabhisheka	₹60 – ₹100	Ritual bathing of the Shiva Linga with water/milk.
Sahasranama Bilwarchana	₹100	Chanting 1,000 names while offering Bilwa leaves.
Kartika Pooja	₹45	Lighting of lamps in the devotee's name.
Vanara Anna Seva	Varies	Special offering of rice to the monkey "Sena" (army).
Rangapooja	₹500+	A grand evening ritual with flower and lamp decorations.
Shata Rudrabhisheka	Custom	A powerful, elaborate abhisheka performed by 11 priests.

Note: For grand rituals like **Chandika Yaga or Rudrayaga**, it is best to contact the temple office (+91 08255 285255) at least a week in advance.

2. **Shivaratri Celebrations: The "Bheti" (Meeting)**

The Shivaratri festival at Karinja is not just a one-day event; it is a four-day grand saga that symbolizes the cosmic romance and union of Shiva and Parvati.

Today: The Night of Awakening (Maha Shivaratri)

* **Ahoratri Bhajans**: Devotees remain awake throughout the night, chanting and singing hymns.

* **Special Abhishekas**: Throughout the night, four separate Yaama Poojas are performed for Lord Karinjeshwara at the summit.

* **The Ascent**: Thousands of devotees climb the 600 steps in the dark, guided by the glow of lamps and the sound of "Om Namah Shivaya."

The Divine Meeting (Shiva-Parvati Bheti)

The highlight of the festival occurs when the two deities, who reside in separate shrines, finally meet:

* **The Descent**: On the second night, the Utsava Moorthi (procession idol) of Lord Shiva is brought down from the peak temple with great pomp, traditional music (Nadaswaram), and torches.

* **The Union**: Lord Shiva reaches the middle temple to meet Goddess Parvati.

This "Bheti" (meeting) is a highly emotional moment for devotees, symbolizing the harmony of Purusha and Prakriti.

* **Rathotsava (Chariot Festival):** Following their meeting, the deities are placed together on a decorated chariot (Ratha) and pulled by devotees.

It is said that witnessing the two deities together on the chariot brings immense blessings for a happy married life.

* **The "Stroll":** On the final night, the couple is taken for a symbolic "stroll" (procession) at the ground level before Lord Shiva bids a poignant farewell and returns to his solitary abode at the top of the hill.

3. **Important Advice for Today**

* **The Monkey Feast:** If you are there at noon, do not miss the Vanara Anna Seve.

The "Karinja Dadda" (the leader monkey) will take the first morsel of the hot rice prasadam offered by the priest before the others join in.

* **The Ponds**: It is customary today to take a dip (or sprinkle water) from the Gadha Theertha at the base before beginning your climb.

* **Crowd Management**: Being Shivaratri, expect heavy crowds. The climb may take longer than usual. Please carry water, but keep it inside a bag to avoid attracting the monkeys.

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Since today is Maha Shivaratri and the atmosphere at the sacred Karinja Hill is filled with divine energy, **here are three ways you can share the spirit of this day with your loved ones.**

Option 1: A Spiritual Message (For WhatsApp/Social Media)

"On this auspicious day of Maha Shivaratri, let us climb the 600 steps of devotion to the peak of Karinja. May Lord Karinjeshwara and Mother Parvati bless our family with the strength of

the mountains and the peace of the sacred Gadha Theertha. Wishing you a blessed and blissful Shivaratri! 🕉️✨ #Karinja #MahaShivaratri #Bhookailasa"

2**. A Short Prayer (Sankalpa) for Your Family**

If you are visiting or meditating on the temple today, you can recite this simple intention:

> "O Lord of Karinja, dweller of the rocky peak, as You descend today to meet Mother Parvati, I pray for the union of peace and prosperity in my home. May the holy waters of your five theerthas wash away our obstacles, and may Your grace guide us upward, just as we climb Your sacred hill. Om Namah Shivaya."
>
3. **A Traditional Greeting (In Kannada Style)**

"ನಾಡಿನ ಸಮಸ್ತ ಜನತೆಗೆ ಹರಹರ ಮಹಾದೇವ, ಕಾವಳಪದೂರಿನ ಶ್ರೀ ಕಾರಿಂಜೇಶ್ವರನ ಕೃಪೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಹಾ ಶಿವರಾತ್ರಿಯ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು."
(To all the people of the land, with the grace of Sri Karinjeshwara of Kavalpadur, heartfelt Maha Shivaratri wishes.)

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History of the five sacred ponds at the base of the hill:

The five sacred water bodies (Theerthas) at Karinja are more than just ponds; they are physical remnants of the great epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata, etched into the rocky landscape of the hill.

Here is the history and spiritual significance of each:

1. **Gadha Theertha (The Mace Pond)**

* **Location**: At the base of the hill (foothills).

* **Dimensions**: It is a massive rectangular pond, approximately 237 meters long and 55 meters wide.

* **History**: Legend says that during the Dvapara Yuga, the Pandavas visited this hill (then called Bhima Shaila).

The mighty Bhima became thirsty and, in his characteristic style, struck his heavy Gadha (mace) against the rock floor with immense force. The impact created this vast reservoir.

* **Significance**: Its water is crystal clear and never dries up, even in peak summer.

Devotees traditionally take a holy dip here or sprinkle its water over their heads before starting the 600-step climb.

2. **Janu Theertha (The Knee Pond)**

* **Location**: Midway up the hill, near the Goddess Parvati temple.

* **History**: As Bhima was striking the ground with his mace, he knelt down on the rock. The pressure from his Janu (knee) created this smaller, sacred pond.

* **Significance**: This pond is the primary source of water for the temple's daily rituals. Every morning, the priests carry water from Janu Theertha to the peak to perform the Abhisheka for Lord Shiva.

3. **Angushta Theertha (The Thumb Pond)**

* **Location**: Slightly above Janu Theertha, on the way to the summit.

* **History**: This small, circular pond is said to have been formed by the pressure of Bhima's Angushta (thumb/toe) as he balanced himself on the mountain.

* **Significance**: It serves as a reminder of the colossal scale and strength of the Pandava brothers during their exile.

4. **Handi Kere (The Wild Boar Lake)**

* **Location**: Near the main temple premises.

* **History**: This pond is linked to the Kiratarjuniya episode. It is said that the great archer Arjuna shot an arrow at a wild boar (Handi) which was actually a demon in disguise.

The spot where the boar fell and the arrow struck the earth formed this lake.

* **Significance**: Near this pond, you can still see faint, long markings on the rock surface which locals believe are the "Arrow Marks" left by Arjuna's powerful shots.

5. **Seetha Theertha / Seetha Devi Pond**

* **Location**: Located on the upper reaches.

* **History**: Associated with the Treta Yuga, this pond is named after Mother Seetha.

It is believed that during their exile, Lord Rama, Lakshmana, and Seetha stayed on this hill (then known as Gajendra Giri).

* **Significance**: There is a nearby flat rock known as "Sita Pramana Kallu" (The Stone of Seetha's Testimony), which is deeply revered.

A Spiritual Tip for the Ponds:

The waters of these ponds are believed to have healing properties, specifically for skin ailments.

On Maha Shivaratri (today) and on Amavasya (New Moon) days, taking a dip in the Gadha Theertha is considered equivalent to a bath in the holy Ganges, especially before witnessing the divine meeting of Shiva and Parvati.

May the holy waters of Karinja refresh your spirit today! Om Namah Shivaya.

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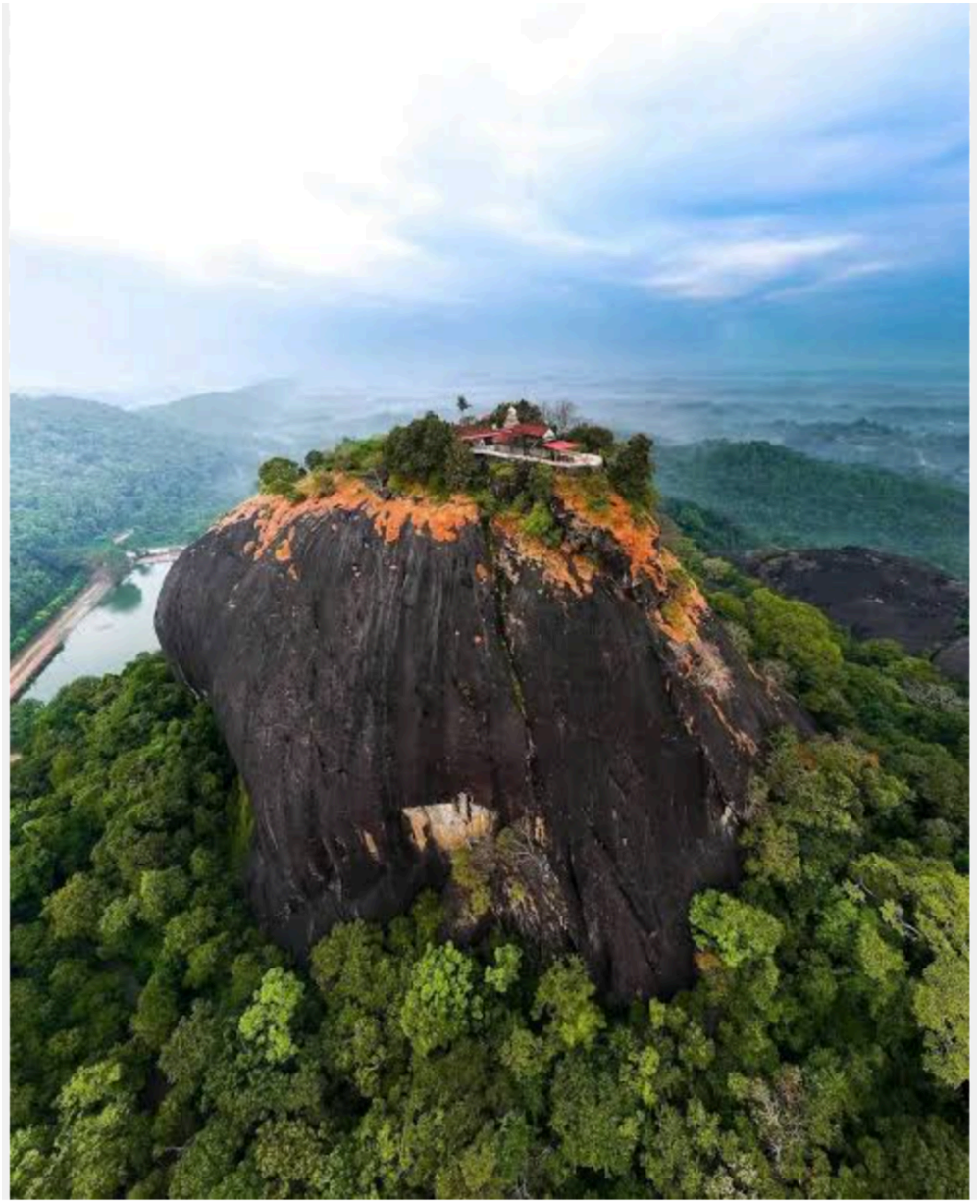
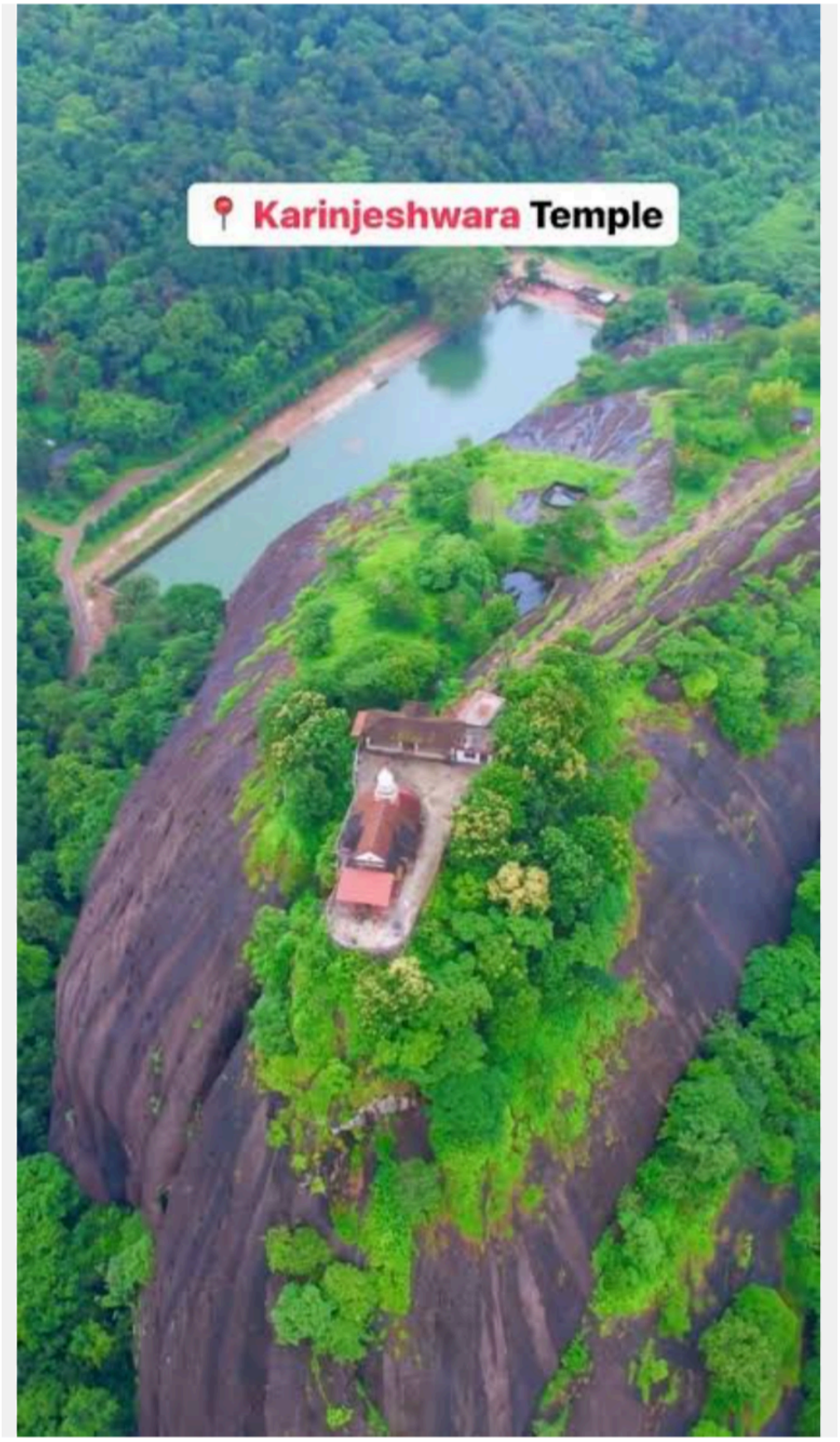
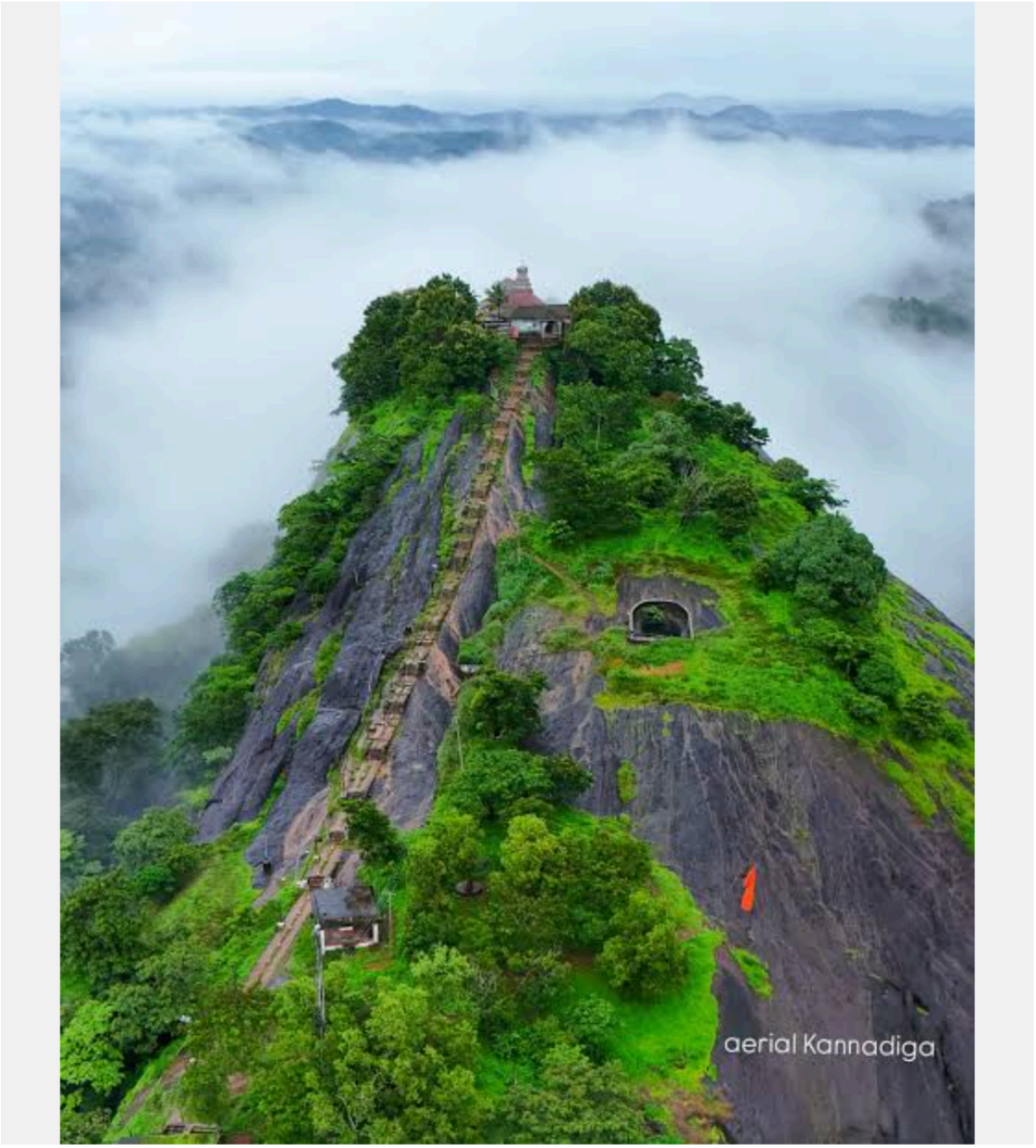
Photos




Karinjeshwara Temple


aerial Kannadiga

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Videos

Sri Karinjeshwara temple - how to reach - vlog (8 min):

https://youtu.be/VI6z0IYP0Sc?si=e6Tjc687Y5QL4vlc

Explore Karinjeshwara temple (6 min):

https://youtu.be/jmuqVEHbVP8?si=72IXpsZGkFw-sWm3

Karinja temple - Kannada (22 min):

https://youtu.be/Y91yjHNz2es?si=gOtrScxI-Jj-goqJ

Karinjeshwara temple (4 min):

https://youtu.be/kqIGaYeAprI?si=U7WnxQBMtNIbTQ1-

Karinjeshwara temple (27 min):

https://youtu.be/T-xYU1Xj45k?si=7s5CapkDS1YIp416

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
February 16, 2026

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